

Paper 2: Themes Revision Guide



GCSE Religious
Studies A

AQA 

Contents

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Exam Information

Exam board: AQA

Exam Reference: 8062

Exam length: 1 hour 45

Exam Date: 16th May



But I don't know anything....

Have you included the following?

1. **Sanctity of life** – all life is sacred and belongs to God **“Love thy neighbour”**
2. **Golden Rule:** Treat others as you wish to be treated
3. **Parable of Sheep and Goats**
4. **“An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth”**
5. **The Lord's Prayer** – “forgive us our sins as we forgive those who trespass against us”



THEME A: Relationships and Families



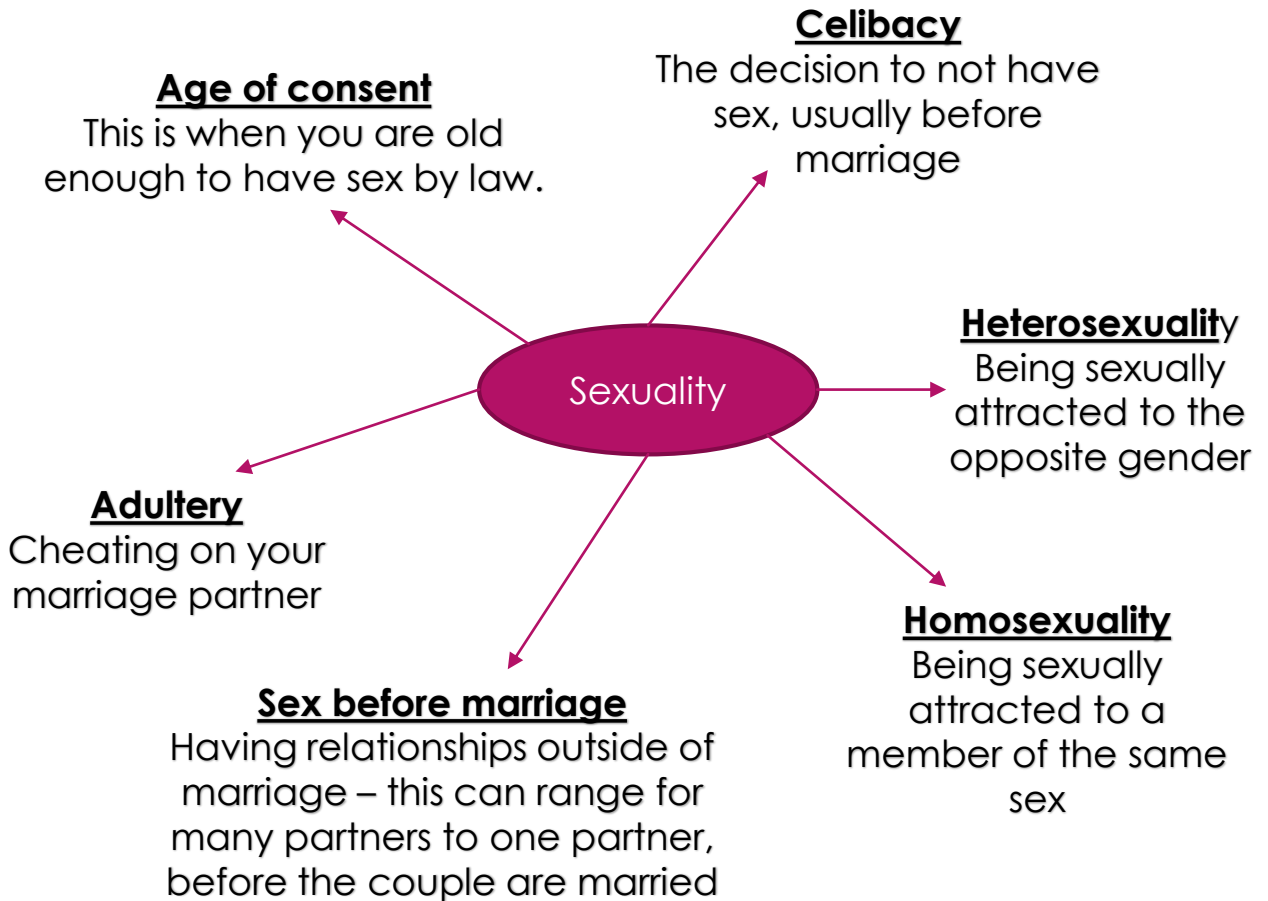
THEME A: Relationships and Families PLC



<i>Specification Bullet / Key Knowledge</i>			
Human sexuality including: heterosexual and homosexual relationships.			
The nature and purpose of marriage.			
Divorce, including reasons for divorce, and remarrying. Ethical arguments related to divorce, including those based on the sanctity of marriage vows and compassion.			
Sexual relationships before and outside of marriage.			
Same-sex marriage and cohabitation.			
Contraception and family planning.			
The nature of families including: the role of parents and children, extended families and the nuclear family.			
The purpose of families, including: procreation, stability and the protection of children, educating children in a faith.			
Contemporary family issues including: same-sex parents and polygamy.			
The roles of men and women Gender equality Gender prejudice and discrimination including examples.			

Human Sexuality

- People choose to have sex for many reasons, for example love, fun, lust, to create life, money...
- Society's attitudes to sex and relationships have evolved over the last 50 Years.
- Homosexuality is far more acceptable today whereas it used to be illegal to be gay. Now many people do not get married (cohabit – live together) and divorce rates are much higher.
- As relationships change, attitudes to sex change, but the religious view remains traditional.



Timeline of the law in Britain for homosexual relationships

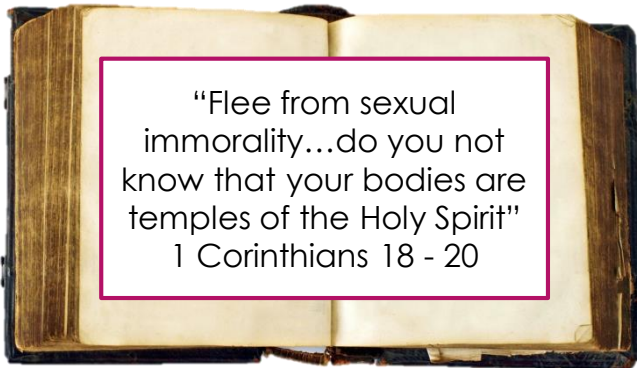
1885	Sexual acts between homosexuals are made illegal
1967	Homosexual acts were declared legal for people over 21, except in the armed forces
1994	Age of consent for homosexual acts is reduced to 18
2000	Homosexuals are allowed to serve in the armed forces
2001	Age of consent for homosexual acts is reduced to 16
2004	Civil partnerships are recognised in law
2013	Same-sex marriage is recognised in law

The nature and importance of sexual relationships in Christianity

- Christians believe sex is a gift from God intended for procreation, therefore they believe that sex should only take place within a marriage.
- They believe that sex is an important way for a man and woman to show commitment to each other
- All forms of sexual activity are forbidden outside marriage

However...

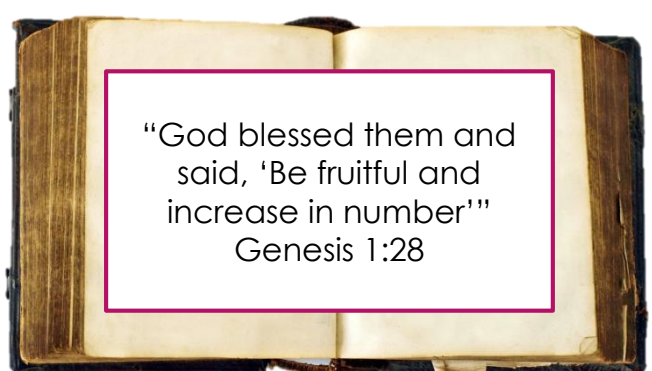
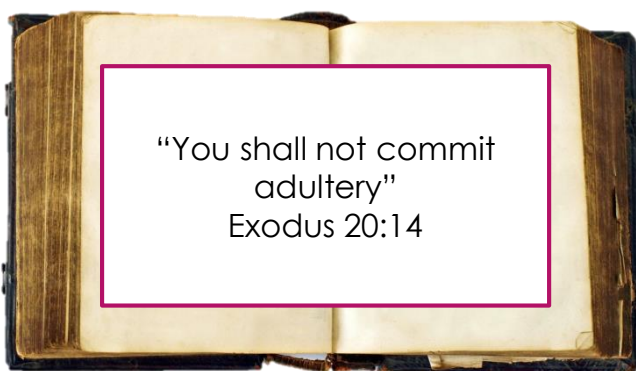
- Some Christians believe that in modern society, some ideas about sexual relationships are outdated.
- They believe that love is important and should be celebrated in whatever form it occurs
- This may allow them to accept cohabiting couples who have a sexual relationship as well as homosexual couples who are in a permanent and stable relationship



This can mean that the body is sacred and sexual relationships should not be abused, or that a sexual relationship is a way of honouring your body, with sex being a gift from God.

Sexual relationships in the Bible

1. Casual relationships are wrong – marriage is intended for sexual relationships
2. Adultery is forbidden in the 10 commandments, which are rules from God
3. Married couples should be faithful to each other as spoken in the marriage vows
4. St Paul in the Bible condemns homosexual acts, saying they are "shameful"
5. Being sexually pure is advised and many Christians take a vow of chastity before marriage



Contraception and family planning

Contraception is a precaution taken to prevent pregnancy so that a couple can “family plan”

Using contraception is seen as a responsible way to bring children into the world – when a couple have decided the time is right for them.

Contraception allows a couple to enjoy a sexual relationship without getting pregnant, and reduces the need for abortion of unwanted pregnancies and the spread of STIs.

Methods include:

- Artificial devices (e.g. condoms)
- Natural methods (withdrawal or rhythm methods – NOTE NOT EFFECTIVE)
- Permanent methods – prevent the production of sperm or eggs (e.g. the coil)

Christian attitudes towards Contraception

All Christians agree that having children in God's creates gift to a married couple, however Christian churches do not all agree on the methods couples should use to limit their families or to time the births of their children.

Catholic and orthodox: artificial contraception goes against natural law (moral principles that are part of human nature). God's purpose for marriage is to have a family.

Using artificial contraception is sinful and you are preventing God's plan. Parents should use the rhythm method – only have sex on days when you are unlikely to conceive.

Many other Christians will naturally want to have a family, but they do not want every sexual act to be a potential pregnancy.

Church of England: in their conference in 1930 they stated “The Conference agrees that other methods may be used, provided that this is done in the light of Christian principles”



Contemporary British Attitudes:

In modern Britain there is widespread acceptance of the use of contraception in family planning.

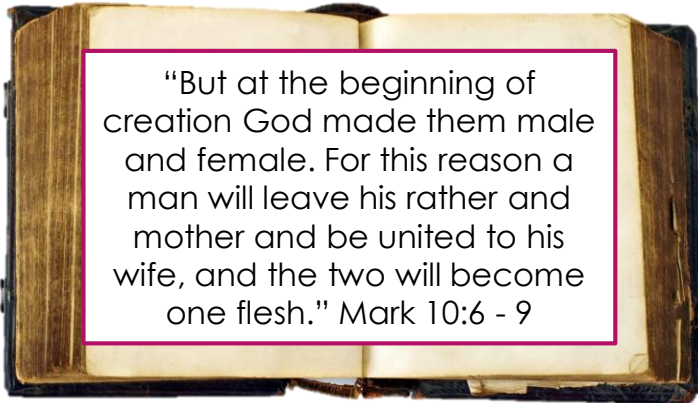
Many people think it is more responsible to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Marriage

Marriage is an important rite of passage in Christianity. For Christians, marriage is traditionally accepted as being between a man and a woman, and is seen as the correct context in which to have a sexual relationship and children.

What does the Bible say?

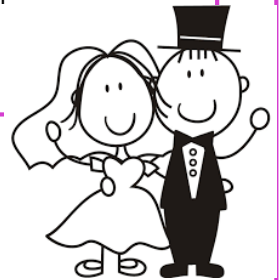
The Bible states that marriage should be **monogamous** (faithful) between a man and woman for life.



"But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." Mark 10:6 - 9

The Christian purpose of Marriage

1. Provide companionship, friendship and support between husband and wife
2. To enjoy a sexual relationship within marriage and to have children and raise a family
3. To make a lifelong commitment to another person, permanent and stable relationship.



Christian beliefs about marriage

1. Most Christians believe marriage is a **sacrament** (a ceremony showing devotion to God). Vows, such as being faithful, are made between the man, woman and God – marriage is sacred and binding
2. Marriage is believed to be a **gift from God** – part of God's plan for men and women to live together as stated in the Bible.
3. Marriage is seen to provide security and a stable environment for children to be raised as Christians.
4. Although marriage is important, some Christians believe that God doesn't want everyone to be married. Jesus wasn't married and some believe they have a vocation to God (for example to be a monk or nun) where marriage isn't a requirement.



Cohabitation

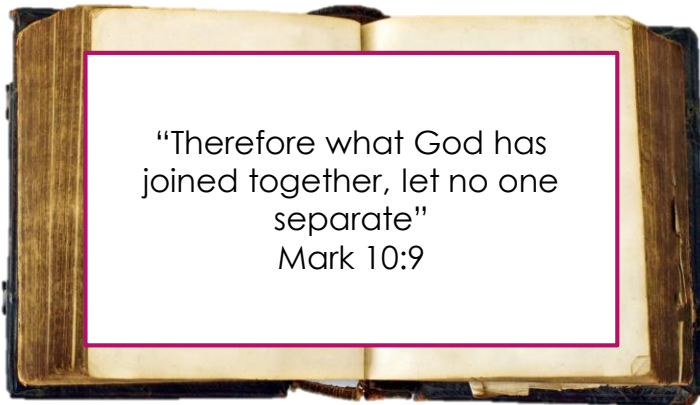
- Today not everyone wishes to get married. Some couples prefer to cohabit – to live together without being married.
- With many believing marriage is expensive and unnecessary, they may choose not to get married.
- Christians, however, argue that marriage provides stability, the basis for family life and involves sacred vows made in front of God, so they do not support cohabitation as an alternative.

Divorce and Remarriage

Divorce is the legal termination of a marriage and different Christians hold different views about it. Attitudes to divorce have changed significantly in recent times.

What does the Bible say?

The Bible teaches that marriage is for life, but Christians may hold different views about divorce



"Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate"
Mark 10:9

Marriage for Life

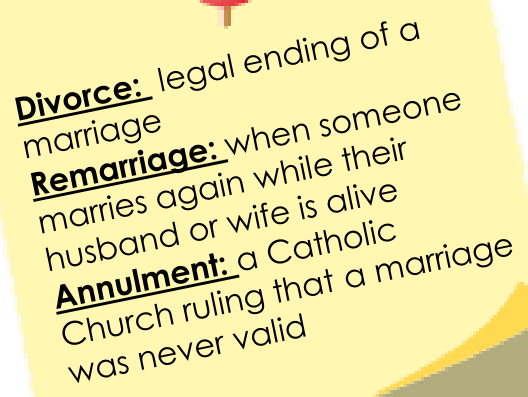
- Marriage is intended to be for life – symbolised by the ring in the wedding ceremony being an unbroken circle.
- Christians believe that if divorce is needed to end a marriage, the couple should have first tried everything possible to reconcile
- If one of the couple dies, the marriage is effectively ended and the partner can remarry

What Catholic Christians believe

1. Divorce is not recognized because marriage is for life.
2. Jesus said divorce is wrong
3. Marriage is a sacrament and divorce would break the promises made with God.
4. The marriage bond is not broken even if a couple receives a legal divorce.
5. Remarriage is not accepted. If a divorce person remarries, the ceremony cannot be held in a catholic church
6. A legal separation may be accepted in some cases e.g. where care of children is needed
7. Catholics can have an **annulment** under certain circumstances if it was never a true marriage

What Protestant Christians believe

1. Divorce is not to be encouraged but it is sometimes necessary
2. Divorce must be acceptable as UK law allows it
3. People can make mistakes and God is ready to forgive sins
4. It is up to the individual minister to decided whether a couple is allowed to remarry in their church

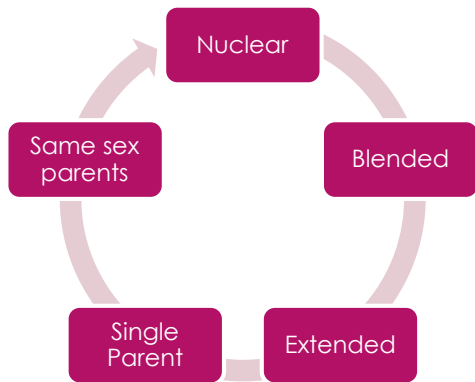
A yellow sticky note pinned to the page with a red pushpin. The note contains definitions for Divorce, Remarriage, and Annulment.

Divorce: legal ending of a marriage
Remarriage: when someone marries again while their husband or wife is alive
Annulment: a Catholic Church ruling that a marriage was never valid

Nature and purpose of families

The family unit and family life is important to Christians. Family life has changed significantly over the last 50 years as society has modernised, and so have views about what constitutes a family.

Types of family



Purpose of the family

Christians believe the family was God's intention for humans when he created them.

1. To provide the right place for a married couple to have children
2. To provide stability
3. To teach children right from wrong
4. Introduce children to Christian faith

Key Terms

Procreation: bringing babies into the world – producing offspring

Nuclear Family: two parents (man/woman) and their children living together

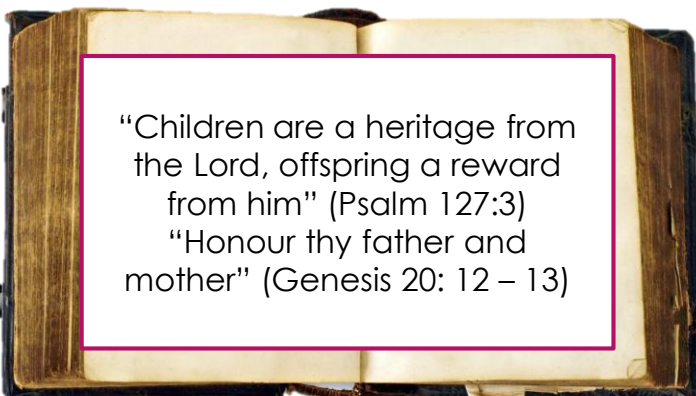
Blended Family: Stepfamilies that have joined together through remarriage

Extended Family: parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins

Single Parent family: one parents and children

Family with same – sex parents: two same sex parents and children

What does the Bible say?



“Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him” (Psalm 127:3)
“Honour thy father and mother” (Genesis 20: 12 – 13)

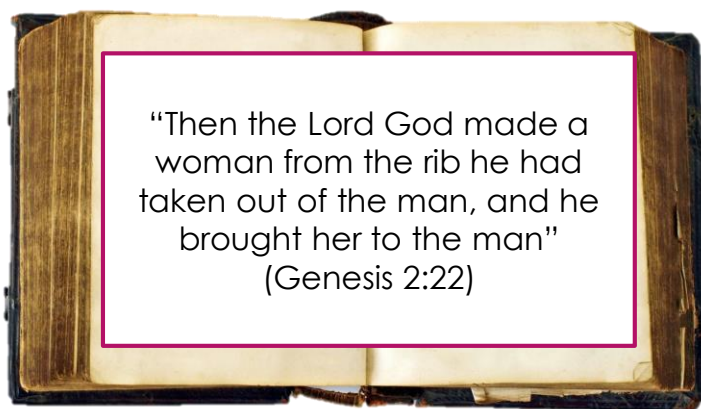
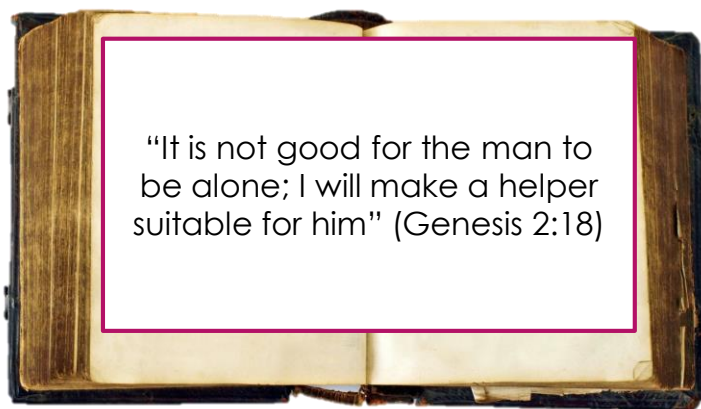


Gender Equality

In today's society, equality is an important idea. Men and women are seen to be equal. While Christian teachings state that gender equality is important, there have been examples where it was not fully encouraged. This includes where men have traditionally been given a higher status than women, for example roles of authority

Roles of men and women in the family

1. Men and women were both made in the image of God. God made humans to be different from all other creations
2. Some parts of the Bible suggest that God made woman as a "helpmate" for man. A literal interpretation is that men are the head of the household with women looking after the home and children.
3. Many Christians today may feel that a traditional understanding of men as providers and men as carers are outdated.
4. Catholics accept men and women were created in the image of God but were given different roles: man was created physically different to work the land; while woman was designed to assist him. Yet, they are seen to have complementary roles



Gender discrimination in the Church

- Catholic Christians only accept men to hold the positions of bishop, priest or deacon and pope
- They believe that these roles represent Jesus, who was male, and follow the teaching in the Catechism of the Catholic Church which states that only a baptized man can hold these positions.

However...

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ"

Many Christians promote gender equality because Jesus taught to love thy neighbour and treat others how you would wish to be treated (Golden Rule)

Topic	Christian attitude 1	Christian attitude 2	Quote
Importance of sexual relationships			
Contraception			
Marriage			
Purpose of families			
Roles of men and women			
Adultery			
Homosexuality			

Example exam questions

Theme A: Relationships and families

0 1 . 1 Which one of the following best expresses the religious view that one purpose of marriage is to have children?

- A) Procreation B) Contraception C) Stability D) Polygamy

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 Give two religious beliefs about the nature of the family.

[2 marks]

0 1 . 3 Explain two contrasting beliefs in contemporary British society about the use of artificial contraception within marriage.

In your answer you should refer to the main religious tradition of Great Britain and one or more other religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0 1 . 4 Explain two religious beliefs about the role of parents in a religious family.

Refer to scripture or sacred writings in your answer.

[5 marks]

0 1 . 5 'Divorce is never right.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.




[12 marks]

THEME B: Religion and Life



THEME B: Religion and Life

PLC

			
The origins of the universe			
The value of the world			
The use and abuse of the environment			
Pollution			
The use and abuse of animals			
The origins of human life			
Abortion			
Euthanasia			
Death and the afterlife			

The Origins and value of the universe

The main scientific explanation for the origin of the universe is the Big Bang theory. Christians today have different responses to this theory.

The Big Bang Theory

1. The scientific big bang theory is the belief that an enormous explosion started the universe around 14 billion years ago. It suggests that all matter was concentrated into a great mass, which then began to expand to form the universe.
2. The expansion that started with the Big Bang is thought to continue even today.



Scientists believe that everything within the universe – planets, stars, matter – is the result of the cooling and gathering of matter as a result of the big bang.

Christian responses to scientific explanations

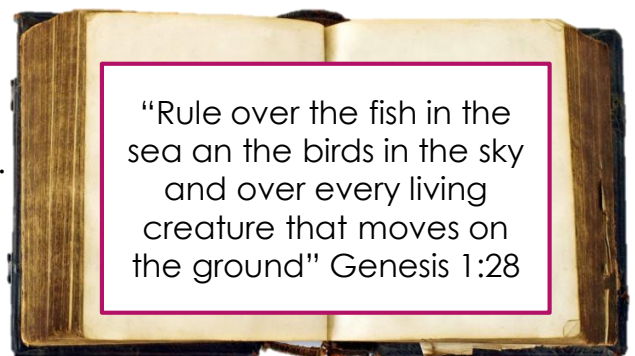
Christians believe the story found in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. They believe the world is a gift from God, created over six days with the seventh day being a day of rest.

Some Christians (**creationists**) **reject the scientific theories**, instead believing that the creation story in the Bible is true in all detail. Where there is conflict between religion and science, they believe science is wrong.

Some Christians believe there is no conflict between science and religion. They believe the Big Bang did cause the universe to exist and evolution is correct, but that the Big Bang and evolution are part of God's plan

Stewardship

1. Christians believe that God has given humans the privilege of living in the world but we have a duty to look after it.
2. We are **stewards** of the Earth and must care and preserve it for future generations.
3. God gave Adam and Eve **dominion** (power and authority) over the world



“Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground” Genesis 1:28

The use and abuse of the environment

As the world's population increases, demands for natural resources is getting greater. None – renewable resources are running out, and new methods of obtaining gas (e.g. fracking) cause a lot of controversy.

Threats in the natural world

1. The world today is being damaged by pollution, global warming and humanity's excessive use of natural resources
2. Many animal species are threatened with extinction, while the world's fast – growing population is becoming unsustainable



Issues in the natural world put our world at risk of global environmental catastrophe



Christian Responses

Christians believe they should care for the world and not waste its resources because:

1. The Bible teaches that we should care for the world
2. Christians see the world as a sacred gift from God
3. Christianity teaches that humans will be judged after death on how they have treated the earth
4. God gave humans the responsibility of stewardship of the Earth – caring for it for future generations.



Air Pollution:

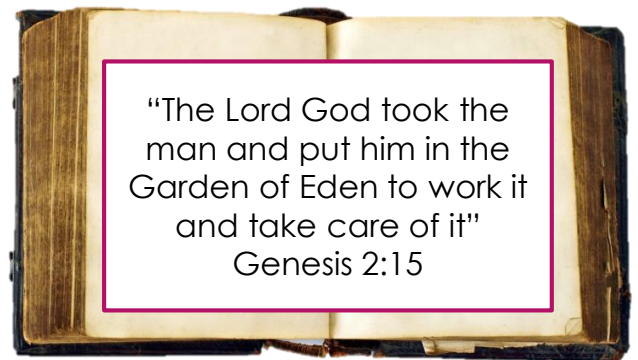
Caused mainly by factory fumes and vehicles.
Causes global warming, climate change and acid rain

Land Pollution:

Caused by ineffective disposal of waste.

Water Pollution:

Caused by dumping waste into the sea.
Killing fish.



“The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it”
Genesis 2:15

The Christian Declaration on Nature, Assisi 1986

- At a meeting in Assisi, Italy – religious leaders of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism met to discuss how their faiths could combine to save the natural world.
- The outcome was a shared commitment to working to help the environment.

The use and abuse of animals

Christians believe that animals were created by God for humans to use and care for. Many believe God values animals but that humans are more important because they were created in the image of God, and have souls.

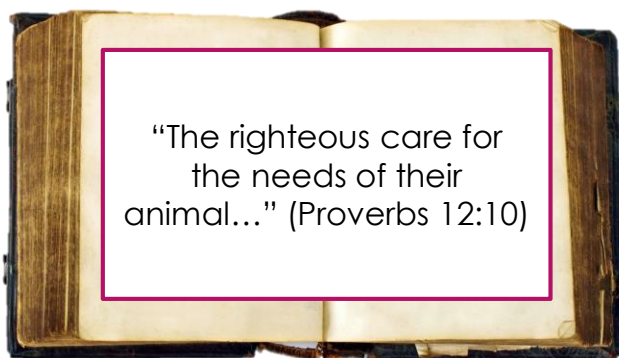
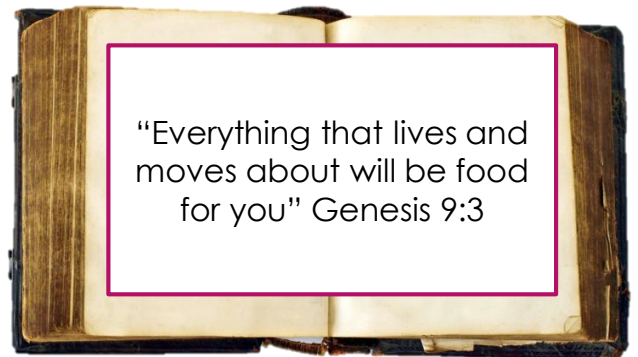
Animal Experimentation

1. Scientists test new products, such as medicines, cosmetics and additives used in processed foods, on animals to check that they are safe for humans to use.
2. Testing cosmetics on animals was banned in the UK in 1998, and most Christians support this ban.



The use of animals for food

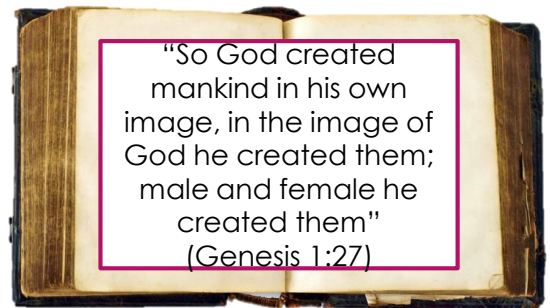
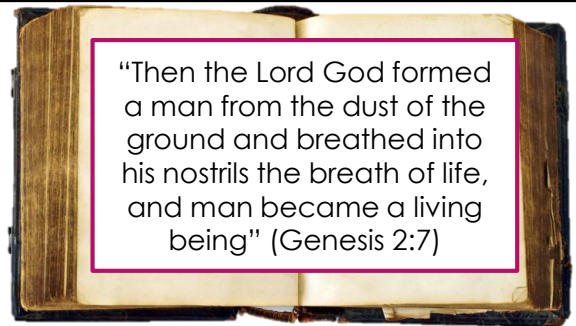
1. Christians tend to agree that it is acceptable for animals to be used for food. The Bible also states that God gave humans dominion over animals
2. Only humans were given souls and were "made in the image of God", which suggests animals are not as important as people
3. Some Christians may choose to be vegetarian, as they believe that since God created animals, they are important and should not suffer.



Abortion

Christians believe that human life is special and holy – this is known as the **sanctity of life**. Christians may hold different views about abortion that refer to different teachings.

- Christians believe that human life is holy and sacred because it is a gift from God and therefore belongs to Him.
- The Bible teaches Christians that God made them in his image. This does not mean humans look exactly like God – rather, it refers to the idea that humans are special and different from the rest of Creation.



Christian beliefs

- Christians believe in the sanctity of life
- God has a plan for everyone – abortion takes this away
- Some Christians may agree with abortion if the baby will have a very poor quality of life
- Other Christians believe that it is the kindest option (lesser of two evils) if for example woman is raped.
- Roman Catholics – never acceptable

Muslim beliefs

- Most Muslims believe abortion is **haram** (forbidden)
- The mothers life should be saved if the baby is putting her in danger however.
- Some believe abortion is justified if the foetus will be born with physical or mental disabilities.
- Under no circumstances should financial situations be a reason for abortion **“Do not kill your children for fear of poverty”**
- Abortion must happen before **ensoulment** – when the foetus receives a soul. Many believe this is 40 days

Legal position:

- Must take place before 24 weeks
- 2 doctors have to agree it meets the following conditions:
 1. Endangers woman's life
 2. Woman's physical or mental health is endangered
 3. Strong risk baby will be born with severe disabilities
- 4. An additional child may endanger the health of other children in the family

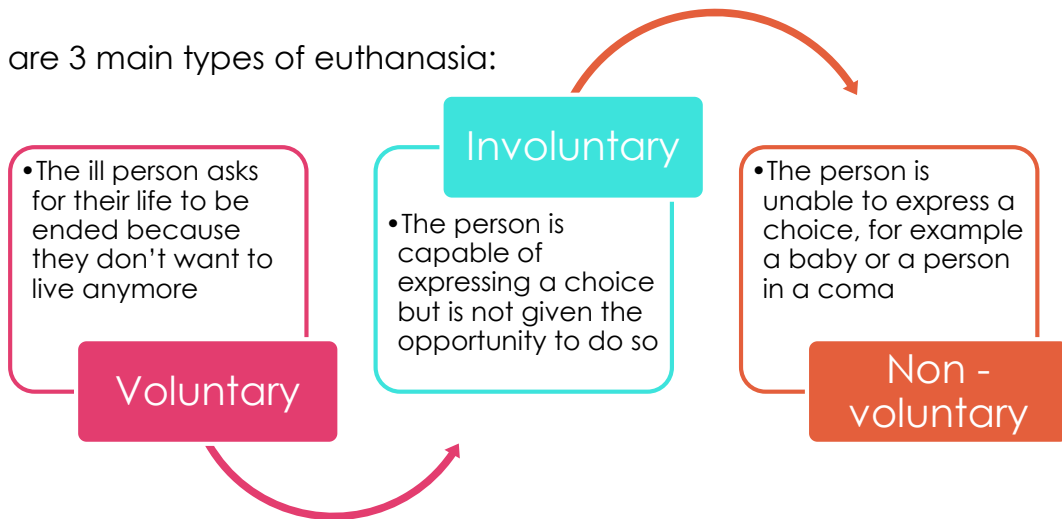
Euthanasia

This means “a good or gentle death” – painlessly ending the life of someone who is dying.

What is Euthanasia?

Active euthanasia involves taking deliberate steps to end a person's life, for example by giving a lethal injection. This is illegal in the UK.

There are 3 main types of euthanasia:

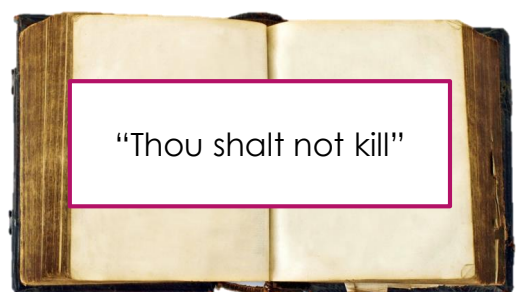
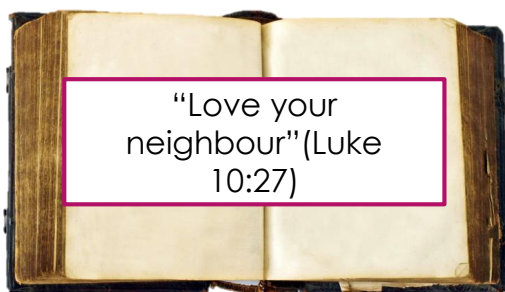


- Doctors can decide to withhold treatment if it is in the patient's best interests, for example not resuscitating a person after a heart attack.
- Some countries in Europe allow euthanasia under certain strict criteria e.g. Dignitas in Switzerland

Christian beliefs

Some Christians believe that euthanasia may be acceptable in some cases to end a person's suffering, but many believe it is never right to take a life.

For	Against
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• God gives people free will to end their own life• Euthanasia may be the most loving and compassionate thing to do• Euthanasia allows a good, gentle and dignified death• Drugs to end life are God – given so can be used	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Euthanasia is deliberate killing = murder• It is open to abuse and may be against the will of the ill person• Only God has the right to take away life (Sanctity of life)• Inheritance issues may encourage relatives to pressure people into euthanasia



Death and the afterlife

Both Christians and Muslims believe that death is not the end but the beginning of an afterlife. Both believe that God will judge everyone (both believers and non believers) on how they have lived their lives on Earth

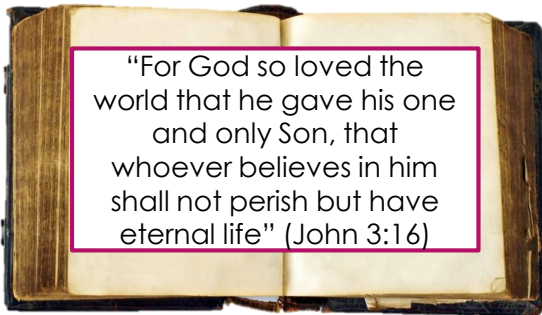
God's judgement will determine what happens to people after death

Tip: See your paper 1 beliefs section for Christianity and Islam for more detail

Is death the end?

Christians

- Death is the beginning of an eternal life with God
- It begins at death or on the Day of Judgement when God judges people's behaviour.
- God's judgement results in the personal spending eternity with God in heaven or without God in hell.



Muslims

- Believe in an afterlife known as **Akhirah**
- Life on earth is a test which will determine what happens when you die
- On the Day of Judgement, each person will be brought before Allah and the book of their life will be opened. Their good and bad deeds are weighed. Allah uses this to decide their fate.
- Those who rejected Allah, Muhammad and the teaching of the Quran together with those who have not enough good deeds are set to hell (Jahannam).
- Muslims who did more good than bad deeds are rewarded with eternity in paradise with God (Jannah)

The Value of Human Life

- All religions emphasise that everyone is accountable for their actions on earth and all actions have consequences, good or bad.
- Both Christians and Muslims believe that God gives guidance about how to live their lives, but God also gives humans free will to decide between doing right and wrong.
- Doing the right thing involves resisting temptation to stray away from God's path
- These decisions have important consequences on our eternal life.

Everyone can choose how to live their life

Being given free will shows God thinks human life is valuable

Human life should be respected

How people decide to act has eternal consequences

This encourages believers to follow God and obey his instructions

Topic	Christian attitude 1	Christian attitude 2	Quote
Origins of the universe			
Use and abuse of environment			
Use and abuse of animals			
Abortion			
Euthanasia			
Life after death			

Example exam questions

3

0 2 Theme B: religion and life

0 2 . **1** Which one of the following means being gently and painlessly put to death? **[1 mark]**

- A Stewardship.
- B Euthanasia.
- C Evolution.
- D Dominion.

0 2 . **2** Give two religious beliefs about pollution. **[2 marks]**

0 2 . **3** Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

0 2 . **4** Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife.
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[5 marks]**

0 2 . **5** 'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.'
Evaluate this statement.
In your answer you:




- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[+ 3 SPaG marks]

THEME D: Religion, Peace and Conflict



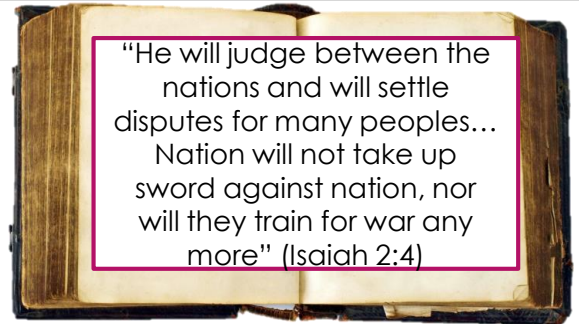
THEME D: Religion, Peace and Conflict PLC

			
Violence, violent protest and terrorism			
Reasons for war			
Nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction			
Just War			
Holy war and religion as a cause of violence			
Pacifism and peace-making			
Religious responses to victims of war			

Introduction to religion, peace and conflict

Many wars are fought to achieve **justice** – what is right and fair, according to the law, or making up for a wrong that has been committed. Christians and Muslims believe that **forgiveness** and **reconciliation** should follow after a war.

- Although the churches teaches that killing is wrong, many Christians have been prepared to fight for their faith or their country
- Other Christians (e.g. Quakers) are pacifists – believe war is always wrong and they work to prevent it.



Peace

- Peace may be hard to achieve through war because its aftermath is often instability and resentment
- Christians seek inner peace and tranquillity through prayer and meditation
- The prophet Isaiah spoke of a time when God will bring peace

Justice

- Isaiah says God, the ultimate judge, will establish justice.
- If more privileged parts of the world are seen to be the cause of injustice, conflict may result.



Forgiveness:

- Christians are taught to forgive others if they wish to be forgiven (the Lord's prayer)
- Forgiveness does not mean no action should be taken to right a wrong, but when conflict is over forgiveness should follow
- Christians believe God offers forgiveness to all who ask in faith

Reconciliation

- Reconciliation means a conscious effort to rebuild a relationship which has been damaged
- It is also important in the prevention of conflict

Can you.....?

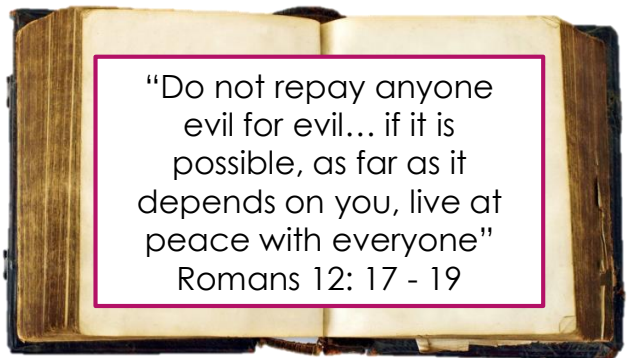
1. Explain two religious beliefs about forgiveness?
2. Make a list of three arguments for and three arguments against the statement "Religious believers should not take part in wars" – apply this to your FARM structure.

Violence, violent protest and terrorism

The right to **protest** (express disapproval, often in a public group) is a fundamental democratic freedom. UK law allows peaceful protest marches if police are told 6 days before so **violence** can be avoided. **Terrorism** (the unlawful use of violence to achieve a political goal) is a more serious form of violent protest.

Violence and Protest

- Christians believe that protest to achieve what is right is acceptable as long as violence is not used.
- The Christian pastor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr organized peaceful protests against unjust racist laws, which succeeded in bringing civil rights to African – American Citizens.
- No religion's teachings promote violence, but they have different views about when violence may be justified
- In Islam, fighting is only allowed in self defense or defense of the faith and only against those who actively fight against you.



Terrorism

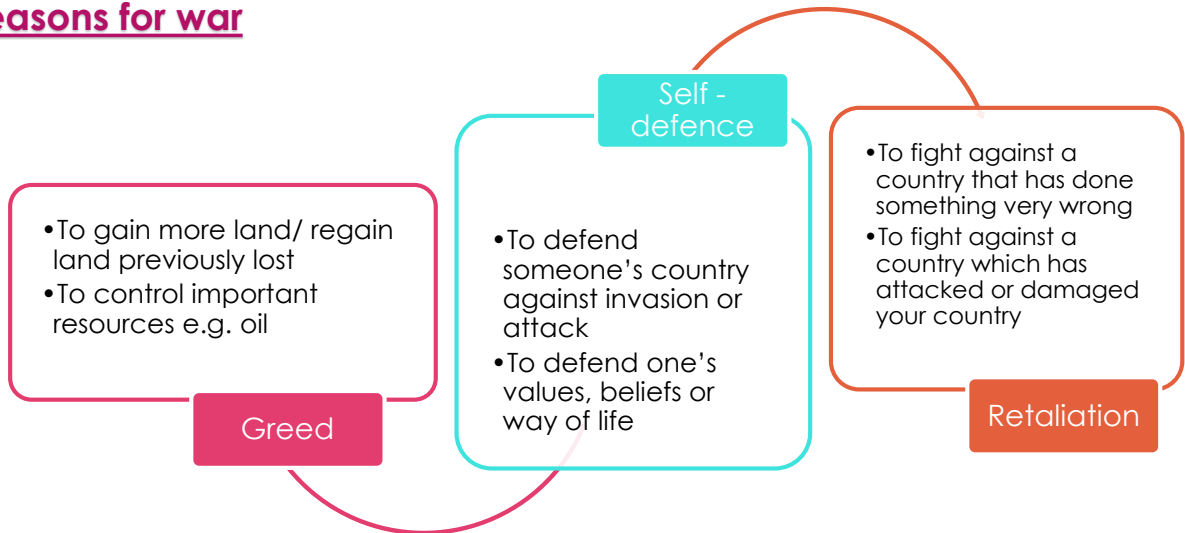
- Some individuals or groups use terrorism to further their cause by killing innocent people
- Suicide bombers, car bombs, gunmen shooting into crowds and using vehicles to injure pedestrians are all tactics of terrorism
- The aim of terrorism is to make society aware of their cause, make people frightened and push the authorities into giving way to their demands
- Terrorists may link their cause with a religion, but no religion promotes terrorism
- Most Christians and Muslims believe terrorism is wrong as it targets innocent people



Reasons for war

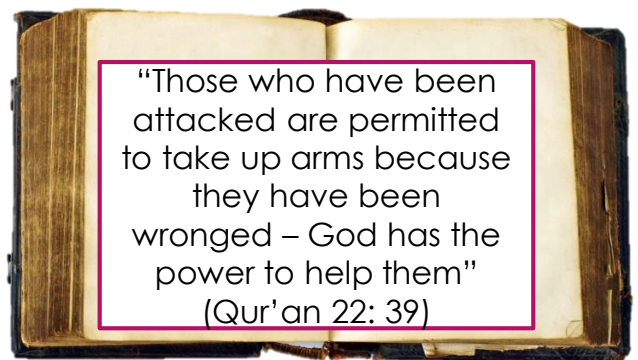
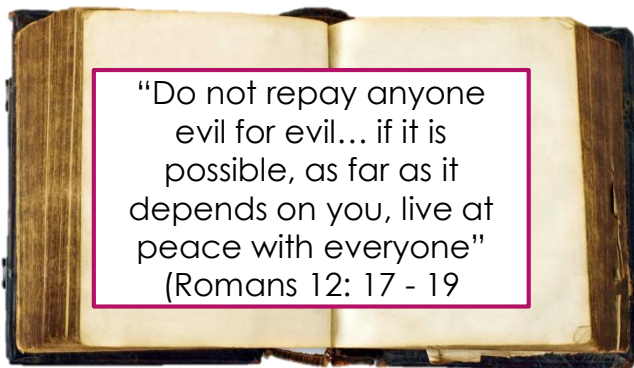
Some reasons for war include : **Greed** (selfish desire for something) **self – defence** (acting to prevent harm to yourself or others) and **retaliation** (deliberately harming someone as a response to them harming you)

Reasons for war



Christian and Muslim beliefs

- The Bible and the Qur'an warn against greed
- Many Christians and Muslims think that fighting in self defence is justified if all other ways of resolving conflict have been tried and failed. Their views can be supported by sacred writing:



- Jesus taught that retaliation was wrong

"But I tell you, do not resist and evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also" (Matthew 5:39)

- Many Christians follow this teaching in their own lives but find it more difficult in situations of war.

Nuclear war and weapons of mass destruction

Nuclear weapons are weapons that work by a nuclear reaction; they devastate huge areas and kill large numbers of people. Other types of weapons of mass destruction include **chemical weapons** (that use chemicals to poison, burn or paralyse humans and destroy the natural environment) and **biological weapons** (that have living organisms or infective material that can lead to disease and death). No religion supports the use of these weapons.

The use of nuclear weapons

- US force used atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki during WW2 causing 140,000 people to die in Hiroshima alone.
- Japan surrendered, ending the war, so some people say their use was justified
- Since then many countries have developed powerful nuclear weapons as a deterrent.

Weapons of mass destruction

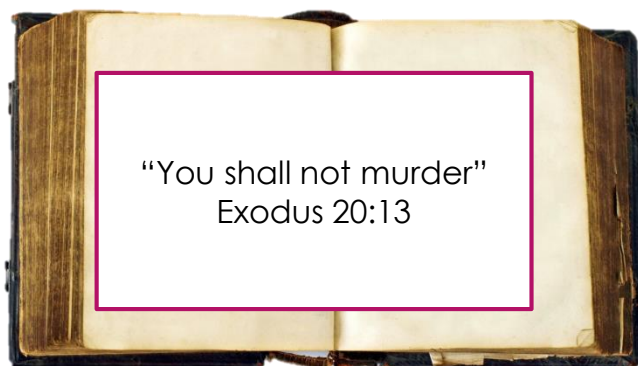
- The Chemical Weapons Convention (1993) made the production, stockpiling and use of these weapons illegal worldwide.
- Chemical weapons are thought to have been used in Iraq and Syria
- Biological weapons introduce harmful bacteria and viruses into the atmosphere, food or water supplies that can kill large numbers of people

Christian beliefs

- Only God has the right to end life
- Nuclear, Chemical and biological weapons kill huge numbers of innocent civilians so their use can never be justified
- The quote “an eye for an eye” is sometimes used to justify war but they cannot justify the use of weapons of mass destruction.
- Some Christians see the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to maintain peace and prevent attack

Muslim beliefs

- God created life on earth and Muslims have a duty to care for and preserve it
- The use of nuclear weapons would destroy God's creation, killing millions of innocent civilians
- The Qur'an gives advice that seems to rule out using all weapons of mass destruction: “Do not contribute to your destruction with your own hands, but do good, for God loves those who do good” (Qur'an 2:195)



The Just War

A Just war is a war that meets internationally accepted criteria for fairness; follows traditional Christian rules for a just war and is now accepted by other religions.

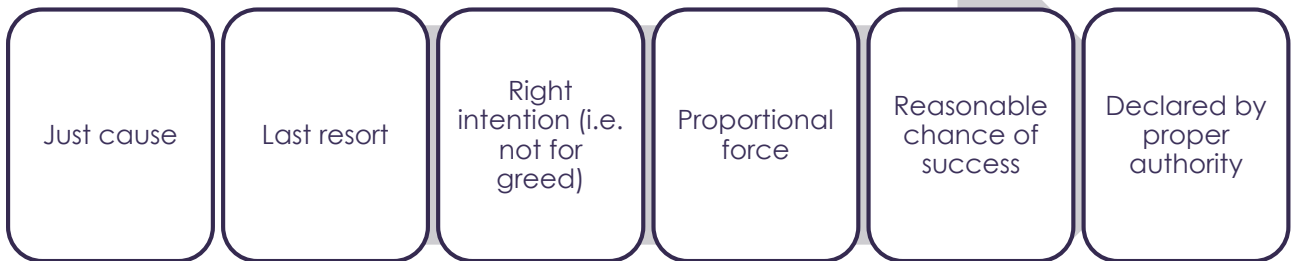
Christian writers Augustine and Thomas Aquinas developed the concept of a "just war"

The just war theory gives the conditions that must apply if a war is justifiable and rules on how the war must be fought to make sure it is ethical.

Lesser Jihad (the outward struggle to defend one's faith, family and country from threat) tells Muslims to fight under certain conditions.

Conditions of a just war

For a war to be just it must:



Rules about how a war must be fought:

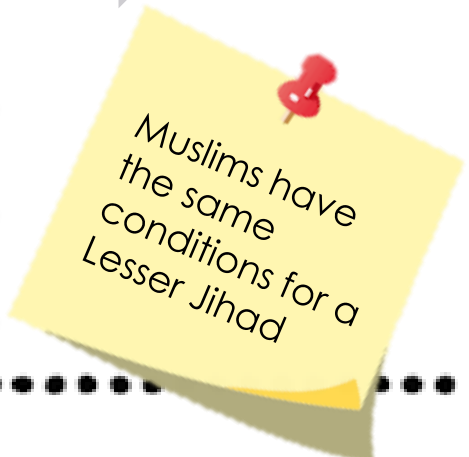
Civilians should not be targeted or harmed



Only appropriate force should be used



Internationally agreed conventions must be obeyed (Geneva Convention rules)



Muslim attitudes to conduct in a war

- The first Caliph Abu Bakr, wrote a set of rules for Muslims:
 - Muslim armies must not harm innocent civilians, animals, fruit bearing trees or people who are devout in their faith such as monks
 - Dead bodies must not be mutilated and prisoners must be treated in a civilized way
- Muslims generally believe that
 - Wars should be proportional and fought without anger, but it is better to avoid war if possible
 - Soldiers must be sound of mind and body and prisoners should be treated in a civilized way

Holy War and religion as a cause of violence

A holy war is fighting for a religious cause or God, probably controlled by a religious leader. Religion is sometimes seen as a cause of violence in the contemporary world.

Religion as a cause of violence

- In the UK today most Christians and Muslims do not respond violently to an attack on their faith
- During “the Troubles” in Northern Ireland (1968 – 98) conflict between Catholics and Protestants led to violence against each community
- Some groups such as al – Qaeda and ISIS (IS) use the Muslim idea of a holy war to wage civil war and commit acts of terrorism



Holy War

- The Old Testament refers to God helping the Jews win battles to settle in the Promised Land
- The crusades (11 – 14th century battles between Christians and Muslims) both sides believed God was on their side.
- For both Muslims and Christians a holy war must:
 - Be authorized by a religious leader of great authority
 - Only be fought to defend the faith from attack (e.g. the right to worship and practise the religion is being denied)
 - In Islam, holy war must meet the conditions of Just War

Religious attitudes to the use of violence

Christian beliefs

- The words “eye for eye, tooth for tooth” are sometimes used to justify retaliation, but this is intended to reduce violence by limiting retaliation to individuals, not whole nations
- Most Christians accept Jesus’ teaching that not only violence, but anger that leads to violence, is wrong.
- “Those who live by the sword die by the sword” – Jesus taught non violence.

Muslim beliefs

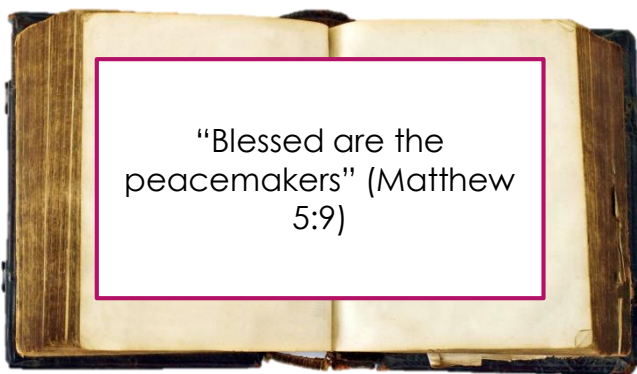
- Holy war must follow just war criteria
- Holy war can only be declared by a proper religious leader (not the head of a terrorist organisation)
- It cannot be declared to force people to convert to Islam
- It must be fought for God and not to allow a leader to show power

Pacifism and Peacemaking

- Pacifism is the belief of people (pacifists) who refuse to take part in war and any other form of violence. Peacemaking is the action of trying to establish peace.

What is pacifism?

- Pacifists believe that **war and violence can rarely be justified** – conflicts can be settled in a peaceful way
- They think that it is better to prevent war by promoting justice and peace
- They believe prayer and meditation can help people be at peace with themselves and others
- Some Christians are pacifists and follow Jesus' example and teaching:



The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

1. Christian organization that strongly promotes pacifism.
2. During the First and Second World Wars some people called conscientious objectors refused to fight and faced punishment.
3. Many conscientious objectors took non – fighting roles as cooks, doctors, nurses or mechanics instead.eg. Volunteering for the Friend's Ambulance Service



The Anglican Pacifist Fellowship

- Work to overcome the inequality and injustice that lead to war within and between nations
- Sponsors the Week of Prayer for World Peace, contributes to peace – related events and religious services and raises awareness of pacifism



Religious responses to victims of war

Victims of war include injured members of the armed forces, the families of those who died or were injured in war, civilians left in a war zone where everything has been destroyed

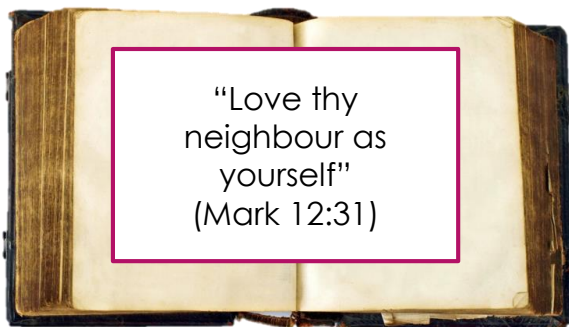
Christians believe they should show love of neighbour by helping victims through

Providing help for victims of war

Victims of war may need:



Reasons for helping



- Christians will help victims of war because they believe it is a way of showing love to your neighbour
- Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan taught that everyone is everybody's neighbour, regardless of race, age, gender or political beliefs.

Christian Organisations that help

Caritas

A Catholic charity that serves the poor and promotes charity and justice worldwide. They provide food, shelter, translators and legal services to Syrian refugees who escaped to Greece in 2015



Christian Aid

Works to end poverty and promotes peace, justice and human rights so that war is prevented. It raises money to support local organisations that help refugees from places such as Gaza, Afghanistan and Syria



Topic	Christian attitude 1	Christian attitude 2	Quote
Reasons for war			
Violence, protest and terrorism			
Just War			
Holy war/ causing violence			
Pacifism and peace-making			
Responses to victims of war			

Example exam questions

5

0 4 Theme D: religion, peace and conflict

0 4 . **1** Which one of the following is not a reason for war? **[1 mark]**

- A Self-defence.
- B Greed.
- C Retaliation.
- D Forgiveness.

0 4 . **2** Give two religious beliefs that show that violence is wrong. **[2 marks]**

0 4 . **3** Explain two similar religious beliefs about pacifism.
In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. **[4 marks]**

0 4 . **4** Explain two religious beliefs about justice.
Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. **[5 marks]**

0 4 . **5** 'There are no good reasons for countries to possess nuclear weapons.'
Evaluate this statement.
In your answer you:




- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[+ 3 SPaG marks]

THEME E: Religion, Crime and Punishment



THEME D: Religion, Peace and Conflict PLC

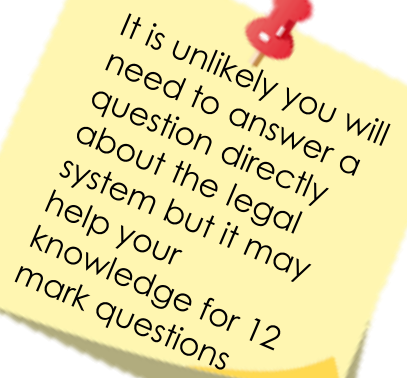
			
Reasons for crime			
Attitudes to law breakers and different types of crime			
Three aims of punishment			
Religious attitudes to suffering and causing suffering to others			
The treatment of criminals – prison, corporal punishment and community service			
Attitudes towards forgiveness			
Religious attitudes to the death penalty			

Crime and Punishment

- Crime (an offence which is punishable by law) and punishment (something legally done to somebody after being found guilty by breaking the law) are both governed by the law

What are crime and punishment?

- In the UK, magistrates and, for more serious cases, crown courts are involved in hearing cases against someone charged with committing a crime
- The courts decide whether the accused is guilty or not guilty and if guilty, impose a sentence as punishment.
- In the UK, the most severe sentence is life in prison. This is reserved for the most serious crimes such as murder, rape and terrorist activity.
- Many Muslim countries follow **Shari'ah law** which is derived from the teachings of the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunnah.
- The death penalty does not exist in the UK, and no legal punishment can deliberately cause any physical harm to the offender, whereas Shari'ah law allows corporal punishment such as caning.



It is unlikely you will need to answer a question directly about the legal system but it may help your knowledge for 12 mark questions

What are crime and punishment?

Good Actions

Some people assume a **good action** is an action that does not break the law. However, there are many good actions that people perform that exist outside the law

- There is no law telling people they have to give to charity or to help people in need
- Being kind and compassionate is a natural human reaction and has nothing to do with the law
- However some Christians believe that adultery and abortion are wrong despite them not being illegal

Evil Actions

There are many evil actions that are against the law. **Evil** can be described as the opposite of good – a force of negative power.

- Evil actions may cause suffering, injury or death
- Christians believe that no one is evil and everybody makes mistakes. Because people are created good, there is usually a reason why they do wicked things (e.g. psychological illness that should be treated in addition to the person being punished)

Reasons for crime

Religious believers think that crime is hardly ever justified, no matter the reason. Some reasons why people commit crimes include **poverty** (being without money, food or other basic needs) **mental illness** (a condition that affects a person's emotions or moods), **addiction** (a physical or mental dependency on a substance or activity) and **greed** (a selfish desire for something)

Reasons why some people commit crimes

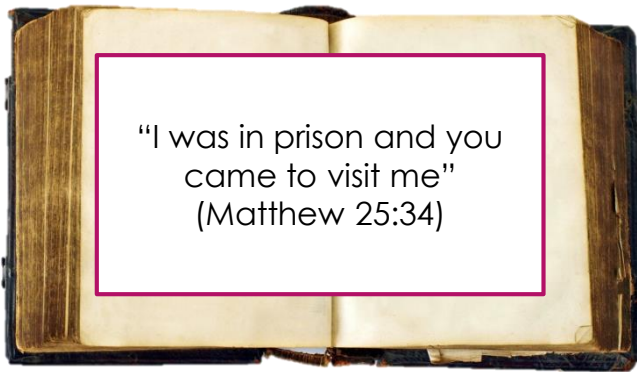
Reason	Development	Christian View
Poverty	There are millions of people in the UK who live in poverty and cannot always afford to buy food. Some believe the only way out of this is to steal food for their family.	Some Christians believe society should ensure that no one has to steal food Other Christians support foodbanks and may campaign for the living wage and to improve public services
Upbringing	Some people grow up in a household where crime is a way of life and they may be encouraged to commit crime	Some Christians believe that parents should teach their children the right way to behave through their words and actions
Mental Illness	Some forms of mental illness may lead people into crime. Anger management problems and depression may lead to violence and drug abuse	Christians believe that treating the causes of the illness is the most loving and compassionate thing to do
Addiction	Taking illegal drugs is a crime, even though the person is addicted. They may commit further crimes to be able to buy drugs. Legal drugs (e.g. alcohol) can also lay a part in crimes such as violence, rape and drunk driving	Christians are against taking illegal drugs and support rehabilitation as a way of defeating the addiction. Christians permit alcohol but not to excess
Greed	Some people want personal possessions that they do not need and cannot afford. Their greed for them may lead them to steal.	The Ten commandments forbid envy and envy often leads to greed. "You shall not covet... anything that belongs to your neighbour" (Exodus 20:17)
Hate	Hate, the opposite of love, can lead to violence and aggression	Jesus taught to love everybody, even your enemies
Opposition to an unjust law	Some people break laws that they believe to be unjust in order to protest against them. These could be laws based on inequality or that deny basic human rights	Some Christians may agree with this but only if no violence is involved and nobody is harmed.

Attitudes to lawbreakers and different types of crime

Many Christians condemn the crimes people commit but do not hate the people who commit them

Attitudes to lawbreakers

- Christians believe that the law should be respected
- Offenders must be punished by the law according to the seriousness of the crime
- Offenders have basic rights and so should not be given a punishment that is inhumane or harmful. Through their punishment they should be helped to become a useful member of society so they do not reoffend.
- Some Christians think the punishment should be as severe as the crime.
- The parable of the Sheep and Goats makes it clear that helping prisoners is helping Jesus:



"I was in prison and you came to visit me"
(Matthew 25:34)

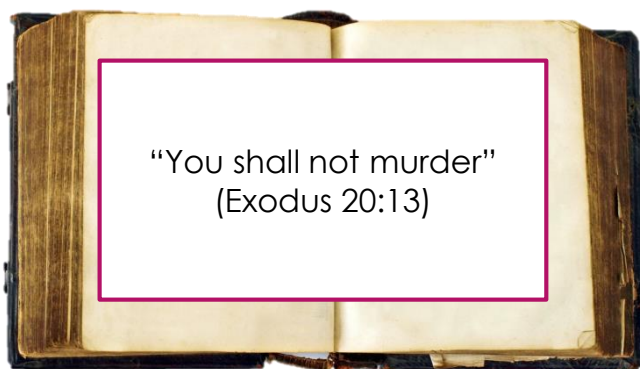


Different types of crime – hate crime, theft and murder

- **Hate crimes** often involve violence and are usually targeted at a person because of their race, religion, sexuality, disability or gender
- **Theft** is less serious than some other crimes but it still results in a victim suffering loss
- **Murder** is one of the worse crimes. Some murders involve the victim being put in great pain before they die. Some murders are classed as hate crimes.

Religious attitudes to different types of crime

- Hate crimes are widely condemned by Christians
- When Jesus taught people to love thy neighbour, he was referring to showing compassion, care and respect to everybody. This means that Jesus himself would condemn criminal actions because no crime shows love towards the victim.
- Murder is wrong because Christians believe only God has the right and authority to take life (**sanctity of life**)



"You shall not murder"
(Exodus 20:13)

Three aims of punishment

Three aims of punishment are retribution, deterrence and reformation. To protect other people in the community is another aim of punishment – although you are likely to be asked about these 3 specifically. The three aims of punishment may be useful to develop your ideas if writing about other aspects of punishment.

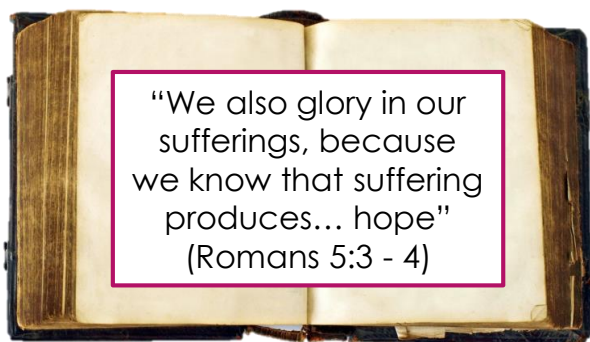
Aim	Explanation	Christian View
<p>Retribution – to get your own back</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Society is getting its own back on the offender • It is supported by the Old Testament idea of “An eye for an eye, tooth for tooth” (Exodus 21:23 – 25) – which is interpreted as meaning that criminals should receive back the same (not greater) injuries and harm that their criminal action causes • In the case of murder, the murderer should be killed as a punishment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some Christians believe the “eye for eye” teaching should not be taken literally but that punishment should be severe enough (but not more severe) to match the seriousness of the crime • This means that murderers should not necessarily be killed as a punishment • Most Christians prefer other aims which they believe are less harmful and more positive as this is “love thy neighbour” in action.
<p>Deterrence – to put people off committing crimes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of deterrence is to use the punishment an offender receives as an example and warning to others • If the punishment is harsh, it is less likely that others will copy the crime. • In addition, harsh punishment may deter the offender from repeating their crime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although most Christians agree with deterring people from committing crimes, they do not support punishments that cause physical or mental harm to the offender or infringe on their rights • They oppose public punishments because they think offenders should be treated with respect despite what they have done.
<p>Reformation – to change someone’s behaviour for the better</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offenders may be given treatment such as counselling and made to carry out community service to help them to understand that their behaviour was wrong because it harmed society. • It is hoped that offenders will change their attitude so that they can return to the community as a responsible law – abiding citizen. 	<p>Most Christians agree favour reformation over other aims of punishment. It is positive rather than negative and works with individuals to improve their life chances. It is not a replacement for punishments but happens alongside punishment even for the worst offenders.</p>

Religious attitudes to suffering and causing suffering to others

- Suffering can be caused by natural events (e.g. illness, an earthquake) or by human behaviour (e.g. Assault, a car crash)
- Christians believe that they must not ignore causing suffering to others and repair any damage they may have caused.
- Suffering is an unfortunate part of life that no one can avoid.

Christian attitudes to suffering

- Whatever the cause, Christians believe that they have a duty to help those who are suffering and recognize that good can come from suffering
- Christians try to follow the example of Jesus. He helped many whom he saw were suffering and told his followers to do the same.



“We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces... hope”
(Romans 5:3 - 4)

Paul, who suffered greatly at points of his life noted why it is important to suffer.

Why does a loving God allow people to suffer?

- It is wrong to blame God for suffering resulting from what are usually human actions
- God could control people to stop them doing wrong.
- Instead, Christians believe that God gave humans **free will** and has given guidance about how to use free will responsibly.
- This does not mean that humans can do whatever they want, whenever they want to do it because this would certainly not prevent suffering. If anything it would increase it
- The role of the law is to give more guidance about the best way to use free will, together with punishments for those who cause suffering by committing crimes

Christian attitudes to causing suffering to others

- Jesus taught that people should love and respect each other and not use violence in self – defense because it may increase suffering
- However, this does not always work and on occasions maybe accidentally, Christians do cause harm to others.
- If and when this happens, Christians are taught to apologise and to try and repair the damage they have caused in order to restore relationships e.g. Jesus' arrest, once disciple cut off the High Priest's servant's ear. Jesus rebuked the disciple and healed the servant
- So Christians can try to heal the wrong that has been done and the suffering that has been caused.

The treatment of criminals – prison, corporal punishment and community service

You need to know about three forms of punishment: Prison (a secure building where offenders are kept for a period of time), **corporal punishment** (punishment of an offender by causing them pain, now illegal in the UK) and **community service** (punishing offenders by making them do unpaid work in the community)

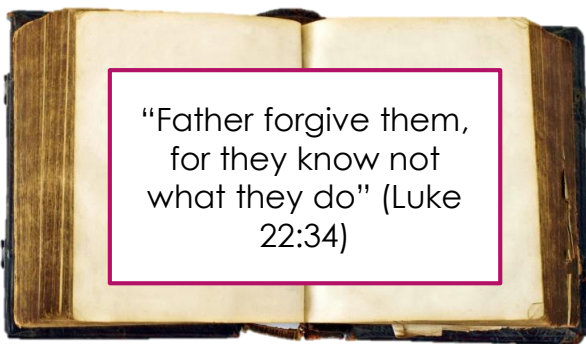
Aim	Explanation	Christian View
Prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A punishment for serious crimes • The punishment is loss of liberty (freedom) • Prisoners have no real choice about how to spend their time – everything is controlled for them • They are locked in cells, fed and allowed to exercise and interact with other prisoners at set times • They work in the prison for very little money or take part in training or education programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many Christians believe that prisoners should be treated well when in prison and are keen to support them to make their time in prison useful by encouraging positive activities • They believe that it is important that conditions within prison are humane and civilised.
Corporal Punishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Punishes offenders by inflicting physical pain • illegal in the UK and many other countries • Some Muslim countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia use corporal punishment such as caning for some offences and amputation of a hand for theft • Punishments often take place in public • Considered to be a breach of human rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most Christians do not support corporal punishment. It does not seek to reform an offender and it physically harms the person, so it is seen as a negative and harmful punishment.
Community Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A punishment for minor offences • Allows offenders the chance to reform • Includes "community payback" which involves doing supervised work in the community such as cleaning graffiti off buildings • Can include treatment for addiction or medical conditions, counselling or educational opportunities • In some cases, and with the agreement of the victim, a meeting may be set up so the victim can give their side of the story and the offender can apologise or their actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians agree with community service for offenders who are likely to benefit from it. It allows them to make up for what they have done wrong (reparation), deters them from committing offences in the future and reforms them by making them realise the consequences of their actions. No harm is done to the offender which is a positive step.

Religious attitudes to forgiveness

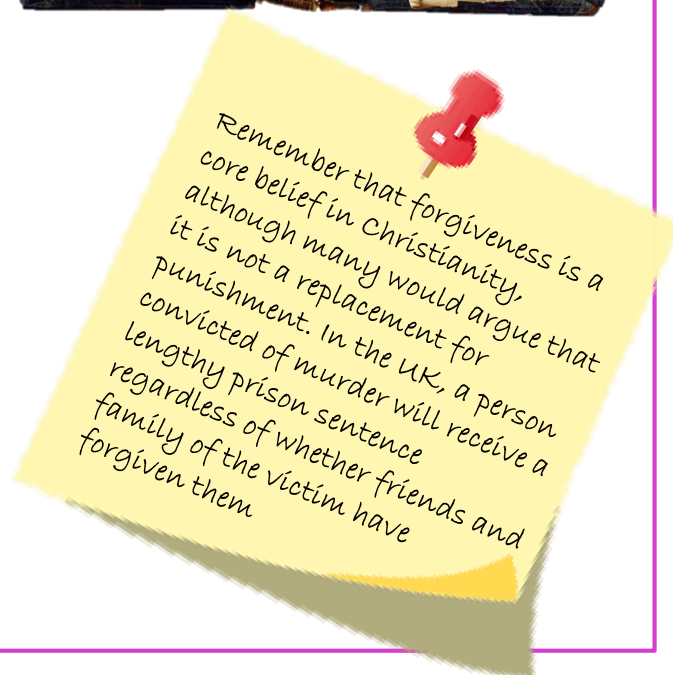
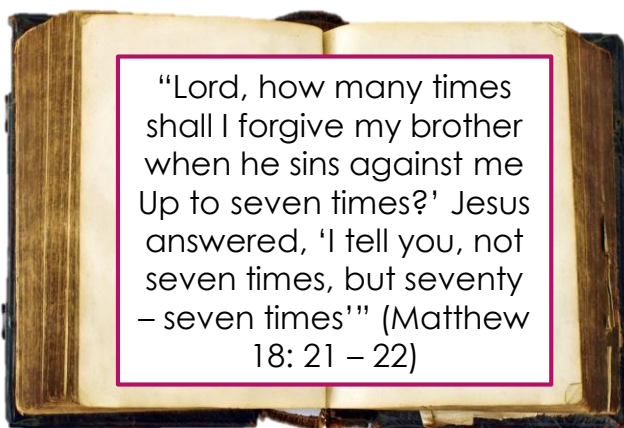
Christians believe that **forgiveness** (showing mercy and pardoning someone for what they have done wrong) is important for living a peaceful life. Christians do not think forgiveness is a replacement for punishment

Christian attitudes towards forgiveness

- The Christian interpretation of forgiveness for those who commit crimes is that they should be forgiven as far as possible, but the offender should be punished to ensure that justice has been done.
- If the aim of the punishment is to reform, the punishment should benefit the offender
- When he was being crucified Jesus forgave those who crucified him after having been found guilty and sentenced to death:



- God expects Christians to show forgiveness to others, not matter what they may have done. In turn, they believe that God will forgive them for any sins they may commit. This is emphasised in the Lord's Prayer:
- Jesus also told his followers that there is no upper limit to the use of forgiveness:



Religious attitudes to the death penalty

The **death penalty** is a form of punishment in which a prisoner is put to death for their crimes. Arguments about the death penalty are often based on:

- **The principle of utility:** the idea that an action is right if it promotes maximum happiness for the maximum number of people
- **The sanctity of life:** the idea that all life is holy as it is created and loved by God; human life should not be misused or abused.

The debate about the death penalty?

The death penalty was abolished in the UK in 1969 so since then, not criminal has been executed in the UK. It is also illegal in the European Community but still exists in some states of the USA, China and some Muslim countries such as Saudi Arabia

Innocent people may die

- Three people executed in the UK in the 1950s have since been pardoned because new evidence has cast serious doubt over their guilt
- There are several people who would have faced death who were later freed from prison because they were innocent

Principle of Utility

- It seems likely that the principle of utility should support the death penalty
- However, if the death penalty is used as retribution, it is wrong
- If it is proven to protect society it can be justified because many people will benefit

Sanctity of Life

- The SOL suggests that the death penalty is wrong
- However, some religious believers think that justice overrides the SOL
- The old Testament teaching of "eye for an eye" can be used to support this view.

Christian attitudes to the death penalty

Christians across many denominations have different views about the death penalty. Some of the arguments they use are based on the Bible and others relate to general Christian and social policies

Agree

- Retribution is justified for people who commit the worst possible crimes
- It deters people from committing horrific crimes because they know what will happen to them
- It protects society by removing the worst criminals so they cannot cause harm again

Disagree

- The best aim of punishment is reformation. A dead criminal cannot be reformed and given a second chance
- There is little evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent. The UK murder rate is not higher than in countries that have the death penalty.
- Many murders are done on the spur of the moment. The threat of punishment doesn't enter into the murders thinking
- God gave life and only God has the right and authority to take it

Topic	Christian attitude 1	Christian attitude 2	Quote
Reasons for crime			
Attitudes to law breakers			
Aims of punishment			
Suffering and causing suffering to others			
Prison, Corporal punishment and community service			
Forgiveness			
Death penalty			

Example exam questions

6

0 5 Theme E: religion, crime and punishment

0 5 . 1 Which one of the following is not a reason for crime?

[1 mark]

- A Poverty.
- B Sanctity of life.
- C Mental illness.
- D Greed.

0 5 . 2 Give two religious beliefs about forgiveness.

[2 marks]

0 5 . 3 Explain two similar religious beliefs about people who break the law.

In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions.

[4 marks]

0 5 . 4 Explain two religious beliefs about the death penalty.

Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer.

[5 marks]

0 5 . 5 'Reformation is the best aim of punishment.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[+ 3 SPaG marks]